

Minimum Standards for Admission and Matriculation

International Dentist Program

Incoming Class 2025

The University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine is committed to the principle of diversity in all areas. In that spirit, admission to the School is open to all qualified individuals and complies with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine recognizes that the award of a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree carries with it the full authority of the institution and communicates to those who might seek the services of the bearer that he or she is competent to practice dentistry. The DDS degree is a broad degree that prepares the graduate, upon licensure, to practice all disciplines of the dental profession. This requires the student to acquire didactic knowledge as well as skills and attitudes essential to the profession and agreed upon by the faculty as requisite for the practice of dentistry.

Applicants must possess the skills and abilities that will allow them to successfully complete the course of study and receive the full benefit of their education. The educational program includes treatment of patients of the School, and the School has the responsibility of ensuring their safety. Treatment must be completed safely and within an acceptable amount of time. The student must therefore be able to meet the following technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation.

I. STANDARDS

1. Motor Skills

A candidate must possess the motor skills necessary to directly perform palpation, percussion, auscultation and other diagnostic maneuvers, basic laboratory tests, and diagnostic procedures. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional uses of the senses of touch and vision.

A candidate ordinarily should have sufficient motor function such that s/he is able to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and treatment to patients. A candidate should possess manual dexterity, including fully functioning wrists, hands, fingers, and arms.

A student must be able to perform basic life support (including CPR), transfer and position disabled patients, physically restrain adults who lack motor control, and position and reposition self around patient and chair in sitting or standing positions. Students must be able to operate foot controls utilizing fine motor movements, operate high or slow speed dental hand pieces during dental surgical procedures requiring controlled movements of less than one millimeter, and utilize hand instrumentation (including scalpels for surgical procedures).

2. Sensory/Observation

A student must be able to acquire a defined level of required information as presented through lectures, demonstrations and experiences in the basic and dental sciences, including but not limited to: information conveyed through physiologic and pharmacological demonstrations in animals, and microbiological cultures and microscopic images of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states.

A student must be able to acquire information from written documents and to visualize information presented in images from paper, films, slides, video, or by computer. A student must interpret x-rays and other graphic images, with or without the use of assistive devices. Candidates must therefore have functional use of visual, auditory and somatic sensation.

A student must be able to observe a patient accurately, at a distance, and close at hand, and observe and appreciate non-verbal communications when performing dental operations or administering medications. A student must be able to perform visual and tactile dental examinations and treatment including the use of visual acuity, accommodation, and color vision to discern differences and variation in color, shape and general appearance between normal and abnormal, soft and hard tissues. Tactile senses may be used either directly, by palpation, or indirectly, through instrumentation. A candidate must also possess the visual acuity to read charts, records, small print and handwritten notation.

A student must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients; exchange information at a level that allows development of a health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative options; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment. Further, a student must be able to communicate with apprehensive patients with a range of moods and behaviors in a tactful, mature manner. Communication includes speech and writing. The student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team. A student must have sufficient facility with English to retrieve information from texts and lectures and communicate concepts on written exams and patient charts; elicit patient backgrounds; describe patient changes in moods, activity, and posture; and coordinate patient care with all members of the health care team.

In cases in which a candidate's ability to communicate through these sensory modalities is compromised, the candidate must demonstrate alternative means and/or ability to acquire and demonstrate the essential information conveyed in this fashion. If alternatives are acceptable, it is expected that obtaining and using such alternate means and/or abilities shall be the responsibility of the student. Reasonable costs of necessary accommodations will be borne by the University unless they are the student's responsibility or otherwise funded.

3. Cognitive

A student must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize information. In addition, a student must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures. Problem solving is a critical skill for the successful practice of dentistry, and requires all of these intellectual abilities. A student must also be able to perform these problem-solving skills in a timely fashion.

4. Health and Professionalism

A student must possess the emotional and psychological health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. A student must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. He/she must be able to adapt to changing environments and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in a health care setting. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admission and educational processes. A student is expected to accept constructive criticism and modify behavior accordingly.

II. International Dentist Program Requirements

The IDP Continuing Education Summer Program is a concentrated course that introduces students to concepts and procedures specific to clinical disciplines required for comprehensive patient care. Progression into the DDS program is contingent upon successful completion of this course.

Students who do not demonstrate competency in the Continuing Education Summer Program will be required to complete a two-week remediation program under the guidance of a tutor provided by the School. Students who demonstrate competency after the remediation program will matriculate into the third year of the DDS program. Students who do not demonstrate competency after the remediation program may be allowed to enter the second year of the DDS program, which will result in an additional year of study, or they may be dismissed from the School of Dental Medicine.

You will be required to successfully complete all courses of the Continuing Education Summer Program, third year, and fourth year of the DDS program regardless of your scores on the National Board Dental Examinations.

III. Background Check

All offers of acceptance and admission are pending completion, at the applicant's expense, of an acceptable Background Check from a vendor approved by the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. Admission offers may be rescinded for applicants who refuse to submit to the Background Check or because of adverse information contained in his or her Background Check.

IV. Criminal Record / Academic Dismissal

A felony in New York State is defined as a crime for which more than one year of prison may be imposed. Applicants who have been adjudicated as having juvenile delinquent or youthful offender status are not required to respond affirmatively to the felony question. An affirmative response to any question will not automatically prevent admission but applicants will be asked to provide additional information. The information will be reviewed by a committee of the School of Dental Medicine for the purpose of ensuring campus safety and determining the eligibility of an applicant for future licensure for the practice of dentistry.

Any falsification or omission of data may result in revocation of admission. Falsification of any documents submitted as part of the application process is considered a breach of the Honor System of the School of Dental Medicine and will result in dismissal if discovered at some future date.

V. Expenses

You will find 2025 Estimated Student Expenses for the International Student Program students both online and with your admissions letter. Please review this sheet and be aware that these costs may change at any time and should be expected to increase annually.

An initial handpiece and supply purchase, loupes, and a notebook computer will be required at the beginning of the Continuing Education Summer Program; a second handpiece and supply purchase will be required at the beginning of the Fall 2025 Semester in August. Financial arrangements for loupe and supply purchases must be made at the time of the supply purchases because this cost *is not billed to you* through the

University; rather students are required to make payment/financial arrangements directly with the suppliers.

VI. Textbooks

Students are responsible for acquiring textbooks and any laboratory manuals required by the faculty at their own additional cost. Some materials may be provided as digital media. Costs for textbooks will vary according to the format each student selects. A listing of the textbooks needed will be provided by the faculty via their syllabi.

VII. Clinical Licensing Examination

As of January 1, 2007, the State of New York requires successful completion of an American Dental Association accredited post-doctoral residency program as a requisite for dental licensure eligibility. A clinical licensing examination is no longer a requirement for dental licensure in New York State.

The School of Dental Medicine does not guarantee that a clinical licensing exam will be offered each year. Although not guaranteed, at this time the School of Dental Medicine does anticipate offering the ADEX clinical licensing examination each year, pending ADEX approval.

VIII. Commencement of the 2025 International Dentist Program

All incoming IDP students must be present to begin the program in **early May 2025 (exact date will be announced)**. The IDP program begins with Orientation and the Continuing Education Summer Program, at which attendance is *mandatory*.

IX. School of Dental Medicine Honor System

At the time of acceptance to and registration in the School of Dental Medicine, each student signifies in writing that s/he has read the Student Code of Ethics and that s/he agrees to abide by the School Honor System, as well as the Student Conduct Rules, University Standards and Administrative Regulations, during his or her affiliation with the School. The Honor System reads as follows:

I, upon entering into the dental profession, accept and honor the concept of unquestionable ethical and moral practice of my art, both in my own activities and those of my professional colleagues. I will not defame myself or the profession through academic cheating or by allowing such misconduct by my professional peers. Misconduct may include violation of school and departmental regulations and procedures which will reflect on the profession or my peers. Such misconduct includes indirect violation through devious activities to circumvent academic/professional regulations or procedures.

By accepting admission to the School of Dental Medicine, I acknowledge the ethical expectations of the dental profession, and accept the concept of the School's honor system and agree to abide by its principles.

This Code of Ethics is predicated on four fundamental ethical principles: Veracity, Justice, Beneficence, and Autonomy. From these universal principles of ethical behavior flow the

standards and ideals which serve to guide the professional conduct of members of the School of Dental Medicine.

The principle of veracity requires the professional to observe truthfulness and personal integrity in all interactions. Whether verbal or nonverbal, communication forms the basis of all human relationships. When communication is eroded by dishonesty and deceit, this basis is destroyed and meaningful relationships become impossible.

The principle of justice requires that the professional treat others in a fair and impartial manner and give what is due or owed or what can be legitimately claimed. Absence of bias and discrimination against others is assumed under this principle.

The principle of beneficence requires that the professional help others to further their important and legitimate interests by providing a needed service. The prevention or removal of possible harm to others also falls within this principle. Beneficence includes the concept of upholding and protecting the credibility and reputation of the profession, thereby upholding the public's trust.

The principle of autonomy requires that the professional have a general respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of others. Persons are to be respected as unconditionally worthy individuals who have a right to self-determination as long as the resulting actions do no harm to others. Assumed under this principle is the concept of respect for and tolerance of individual differences and individuals' rights to privacy and to make their own choices.

Each student entering the School of Dental Medicine is expected to have established the highest concepts of honor and personal integrity, and to maintain these concepts throughout his or her professional career. All student activities in the dental school are conducted under the school honor system in recognition of these expectations.

Professional ethics are the responsibility of each individual operating within the profession. Dental education represents the beginning of a professional career. Therefore the Honor System is based on self-regulation inherent in the profession of dentistry. The Honor System assumes that each student has the personal integrity to be honest and professional,

and that this integrity compels the student to discourage any unprofessional behavior s/he may observe in others.

Examples of Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Previously submitted work. Submitting academically required material that has been previously submitted – in whole or in substantial part --in another course, without prior and expressed consent of the instructor.

(b) Plagiarism. Copying or receiving material from any source and submitting that material as one's own, without acknowledging and citing the particular debts to the source (quotations, paraphrases, basic ideas), or in any other manner representing the work of another as one's own.

(c) Cheating. Soliciting and/or receiving information from, or providing information to, another student or any other unauthorized source (including electronic sources such as cellular phones and PDAs), with the intent to deceive while completing an examination or individual assignment.

(d) Falsification of academic materials. Fabricating laboratory materials, notes, reports, or any forms of computer data; forging an instructor's name or initials; resubmitting an examination or assignment for reevaluation which has been altered without the instructor's authorization; or submitting a report, paper, materials, computer data, or examination (or any considerable part thereof) prepared by any person other than the student responsible for the assignment.

(e) Misrepresentation of documents. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any University or Official document, record, or instrument of identification.

(f) Confidential academic materials. Procurement, distribution or acceptance of examinations or laboratory results without prior and expressed consent of the instructor.

(g) Selling academic assignments. No person shall sell or offer for sale to any person enrolled at the University at Buffalo any academic assignment, or any inappropriate assistance in the preparation, research, or writing of any assignment, which the seller knows, or has reason to believe, is intended for submission in fulfillment of any course or academic program requirement.

(h) Purchasing academic assignments. No person shall purchase an academic assignment intended for submission in fulfillment of any course or academic program requirement.

Student Ethical Responsibilities

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the principle and spirit of the honor system. Violations of the honor system will expose the student to disciplinary action. In certain circumstances, a student may be suspended temporarily. Temporary suspension means that a student may be deemed to be a CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER to the University Community, patients and/or him or herself and may be suspended immediately, pending a timely hearing on the charges. The following are some specific, but not exhaustive, examples of expected student conduct.

Examinations

- A student shall neither give nor receive aid during an examination.
- Students shall be prompt for all examinations.

- Students shall neither talk nor cause disruption of the quiet atmosphere of the examination. Students shall not use course notes or crib notes during an examination (unless so authorized by faculty).
- Students shall not steal examinations.
- Students shall not take an examination for another student.
- Students shall abide by all rules governing the administration of the examination as put forth by the course director (e.g., time, procedures, and seating).

Preclinical Procedures

- The use of commercial laboratory facilities is prohibited (per course directives).
- Students shall not falsify the completion of lab accomplishments.
- Students shall not steal, destroy or distort another student's work.
- Students shall not submit projects completed partly or in whole by other persons (e.g., professional students, graduate students, or lab technicians).

Clinical Responsibilities

- No patient treatment shall be performed without direct supervision of a faculty member.
- Students shall not falsify records or signatures.
- Students shall not steal clinic instruments, materials, or equipment.
- Students shall always treat patients in a fashion consistent with the established priority of needs.
- Students shall adhere to clinical guidelines for procedures as outlined by the clinical course director or department.
- Work or material provided by a commercial laboratory is forbidden except when approved by specific work authorizations.

Violations of General Facility Rules

- Students shall not intentionally destroy or vandalize university property.
- Students shall not violate facility hours.
- Students shall not breach facility security (e.g. propping doors open).

Professionalism

Professionalism is defined as the conduct, aims, or qualities that characterize or mark a profession or a professional person. Professionalism presupposes accountability for one's actions. Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Violation of the Student Conduct Rules, University Standards and administrative regulations
- All forms of conduct which fail to meet the standards of the dental profession, including repeated failure to meet assigned obligations
- Use of abusive or intimidating language or behavior
- Sexual harassment
- Discrimination based on such factors as sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, veteran status or sexual orientation
- Disruption of class or any other school activity
- Plagiarism of material for written papers, reports or other assignments

- Other misconduct, misrepresentation, or failure in personal actions or in meeting obligations which raise serious, unresolved doubts about the integrity of the student in meeting the overall obligations of a professional dental career.